TENTATIVE LABORATORY SCHEDULE, SECTION C, FALL 2006

<table>
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<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
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| Sept. 3 | No lab meeting but there is a homework assignment  
✓ The Process of Science Homework Assignment |
| Sept. 10 | ✓ The Crickets of Runnals Hill  
✓ Natural History Essay  
› PROCESS OF SCIENCE ASSIGNMENT DUE |
| Sept. 17 | ✓ Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Colby Arboretum  
✓ Biotechnology and Biodiversity Issues Assignment  
› CRICKET STUDY RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS DUE |
| Sept. 24 | ✓ Freshwater Wetlands Ecosystems Field Trip* |
| Oct. 1 | ✓ Coastal Ecosystems Field Trip **  
› BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY ISSUES PAPER DUE |
| Oct. 8 | Review for Lab Practical |
| Oct. 15 | Fall break – no lab meeting  
› LAB PRACTICAL, THURSDAY, 19 OCT 2006, 6:30PM*** |
| Oct. 22 | ✓ Fermi Problem: Bucks, Acres, and Species  
✓ The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals  
✓ The Sustainable Meal Project |
| Oct. 29 | Industrial Corn Discussion  
› BUCKS, ACRES, AND SPECIES ASSIGNMENT DUE |
| Nov. 5 | Pastoral Grass Discussion  
› NATURAL HISTORY ESSAY DUE |
| Nov. 12 | Personal Forest Discussion |
| Nov. 19 | Thanksgiving break – no lab meeting |
| Nov. 26 | To be Announced |
| Dec. 3 | Lab instructor evaluations  
✓ Organic Dairy Farm Field Trip*  
› THE SUSTAINABLE MEAL PROJECT DUE |

Please note the following:  
*On some days field trips may return to campus as late as 5:00 PM.  
**Coastal field trip will not return until 6:30 – 7:00 PM. Bag dinners will be provided.  
***The lab practical will be administered during the evening of 19 October. The location of the exam will be announced in lab. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have a conflict with the scheduled time for the exam.
Objectives
Laboratory section C of Biology 131 is part of the Integrated Studies Program’s ‘Green’ cluster of courses. The laboratory provides a participative, collaborative experience designed to meet the following objectives:

- Examine the biological diversity found in some common Maine ecosystems.
- Develop skills of scientific observation, reasoning, and measurement.
- Increase skills of communication, including literature searching, data presentation, and writing.
- Understand some threats to biodiversity and measures that can be taken to mitigate such threats.
- Integrate biodiversity issues with themes presented in the other courses of the ‘Green’ cluster.

Tentative Nature of Schedule
Please note that the lab schedule has been labeled as ‘tentative’. I will try my best to adhere to this schedule but unforeseen circumstances may arise which will necessitate changes in the schedule.

Additional Text
The following text will be required for lab: Pollan M 2006. The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals. Penguin Press, NY 451pp. The book should be available at the Colby Bookstore in a few weeks, and will be used after Fall break.

Field Trips
Field trips are designed to allow you to observe organisms in their natural environments. During these trips I will help you learn how to identify common organisms, discuss the ecological relationships among them, and explain how human activity affects these ecosystems. You should come prepared to take notes regarding these facts. Field trips will take place regardless of weather conditions, i.e., RAIN or SHINE. Accordingly you should wear appropriate clothing and footwear to remain safe and comfortable. On cold days multiple layers work better than a single heavy layer. If rain is expected, you will need rain gear and something to protect your notebook from getting wet. On trips where we will encounter water you will need shorts and footwear that will allow you to wade into shallow water. On those trips you should also bring a dry pair of socks and shoes that you can change into for the ride home. Please note that some field trips will return to campus late, especially the Coastal trip.

Attendance and Participation
Your attendance is required for all lab activities. Absence from one or more labs will make you eligible for dismissal from the course. If you are unable to attend lab for a health reason or other personal emergency you must make arrangements with me for attending an alternate lab or otherwise making up the missed work. Most of the laboratory work will involve collaborating with one or more students. A portion of your grade will be based upon how actively you participate in the collaborative work of the lab and in the discussions of readings.

Grading
Your grade for the laboratory component will make up 25% of your final grade for the course. That 25% will be broken down as follows:

- The Process of Science Homework 1%
- Results and Conclusions of Cricket Study 1%
- Biotechnology/Biodiversity Issues Paper 3%
- Lab Practical 5%
- Natural History Essay 5%
- Bucks, Acres, and Species Homework 1%
- The Sustainable Meal Project 7%
- Class Participation 2%

Your paper, essay, and project will be graded on an A - F scale, with + and - assigned where appropriate. Late submissions are subject to a decrease of one full letter grade per day, for each day the assignment is late. Work not submitted will receive a grade of zero (which is much worse than receiving a grade of F).

The lab practical will test your knowledge of the organisms and concepts too which you have been introduced in the field. Approximately half of the questions will involve simple identification of physical specimens or photographs of specimens. The balance of exam will involve understanding the ecological concepts and processes studied during field trips, and the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. The exam will be comprised of 100 short answers, each worth one point.

Other assignments and class participation will be graded on a S/U scale. Satisfactory work receives full credit, Unsatisfactory work receives half credit, and work not submitted and poor class participation receive no credit.